GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2863
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
SPREAD OF AVIAN FLU
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any research/ study to find out the reasons for the spread of the Avian flu disease and its treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to eradicate such disease from the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): The committee constituted by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries to study the possible source of infection in Maharashtra in 2006 and Manipur outbreak in 2007 observed that although no definite conclusion could be reached, the possibility of introduction of the disease through migratory/ wild birds can not be totally ruled out. The strategy followed to control, contain and stamp out the disease in poultry has been to cull all poultry within 5 Kms of foci of infection and prevent movement of poultry and poultry products to other areas.

For the treatment of human cases of Avian Influenza the World Health Organization recommended protocol for treatment with Oseltamivir is followed.

The strategy as followed now for minimizing the human exposure is stamping out the disease in poultry, putting the human population in the affected zone under active surveillance to detect cases early and to manage them.